

1 LEE TRAN & LIANG APLC
2 Enoch H. Liang (SBN 212324)
3 enoch.liang@ltlw.com
4 Heather F. Auyang (SBN 191776)
5 heather.auyang@ltlw.com
6 Lisa J. Chin (SBN 259793)
7 lisa.chin@ltlattorneys.com
8 601 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 3900
9 Los Angeles, CA 90017
10 Telephone: (213) 612-8900
11 Facsimile: (213) 612-3773
12 Attorneys for Defendant
13 Biosuccess Biotech, Co., Ltd.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD L. CHANG,
Plaintiff,
v.
BIOSUCCESS BIOTECH, CO., LTD.,
and DOES 1 through 10,
Defendants.

Case No. CV13-01340 JAK (ANx)

**DEFENDANT BIOSUCCESS
BIOTECH, CO., LTD.'S ANSWER
TO PLAINTIFF'S
CONDITIONAL
COUNTERCLAIMS AND
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Trial Date: May 13, 2014

Honorable John A. Kronstadt

BIOSUCCESS BIOTECH, CO., LTD.,
and DOES 1 through 10,
Counterclaimants,
v.
RICHARD L. CHANG,
Counter-Defendant.

Defendant Biosuccess Biotech, Co., Ltd. (“Biosuccess”), through its counsel, answers the allegations in the Conditional Counterclaims filed by Plaintiff Richard L. Chang (“Chang” or “Plaintiff”), as set forth below. Biosuccess hereby reserves the right to amend its Answer as additional information becomes available and additional defenses become apparent. Unless specifically admitted, Biosuccess denies each of the allegations of Plaintiff’s Conditional Counterclaims.

COUNT I

(Breach of Contract)

PARTIES

10 1. Biosuccess is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a
11 belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 1, and therefore denies
12 them.

13 2. Biosuccess admits that Biosuccess Biotech, Co., Ltd. is a corporation
14 organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands, with its principal place of business
15 at 3333 Bowers Avenue, Suite 201, Santa Clara, California 95054.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

17 3. Biosuccess admits that Plaintiff attempts to assert claims as a
18 declaratory judgment action. Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in
19 paragraph 3.

20 4. Biosuccess admits that Count II of Biosuccess' Counterclaims is titled
21 "Breach of Contract – Failure to Fulfill Duties as the CTO/CSO;" Count III is titled
22 "Breach of Contract – Assignment of the International Patent Applications;" and
23 Count VI is titled "Unjust Enrichment." Biosuccess denies the remaining
24 allegations in paragraph 4.

25 5. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 5.

26 || 6. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 6.

27 ||| 7. This paragraph contains Plaintiff's legal conclusions to which no

1 response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Biosuccess
2 denies the allegations contained in paragraph 7.

3 8. This paragraph contains Plaintiff's legal conclusions to which no
4 response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Biosuccess
5 denies the allegations contained in paragraph 8.

6 9. Biosuccess admits that venue is proper in this District. Biosuccess
7 denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 9.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

9 10. Biosuccess admits that, on its face, U.S. Patent No. 6,063,814 (“the
10 ‘814 patent”) duly and legally issued on May 16, 2000, and that Chang is one of the
11 named inventors. Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 10.

12 11. Biosuccess admits that Chang and Biosuccess entered into an
13 agreement titled “Assignment of Patent Right & Assignment of Right of Patent
14 Application Agreement.” Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in paragraph
15 11.

16 12. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim alleges an
17 “October 2006 Agreement.” Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in
18 paragraph 12.

19 13. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to “Section
20 5.1 of the October 2006 Agreement.” Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations
21 in paragraph 13.

22 14. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 14.

23 ||| 15. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 15.

24 16. Biosuccess admits that there is a letter dated January 18, 2013 to Chang
25 from Biosuccess that states Biosuccess “must terminate [Chang’s] employment
26 starting 1/1/2013 because of [his] serious misconducts on work ethics.” Biosuccess
27 denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 16.

1 17. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 17.

2 18. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 18.

3 19. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 19.

4 20. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 20.

5 21. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to “Section

6 5.3 of the October 2006 Agreement.” Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations

7 in paragraph 21.

8 22. Biosuccess admits that there is a letter dated January 22, 2013 from

9 Chang to Biosuccess. Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 22.

10 23. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to a March

11 25, 2013 letter, which does not exist. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in

12 paragraph 23.

13 24. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 24.

14 25. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 25.

15 26. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 26.

16 27. Biosuccess admits that on or about November 14, 2006, it filed an

17 assignment document concerning the ‘814 patent in the United States Patent and

18 Trademark Office. Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 27.

19 28. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 28.

20 29. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to

21 “provisional patent application 60/898,810.” Biosuccess denies the remaining

22 allegations in paragraph 29.

23 30. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to “United

24 States patent application 13/595,072, which claims priority from provisional

25 application 60/898,810, is continuation of United States patent application

26 12/023,753.” Biosuccess admits that on or about February 17, 2011, Biosuccess

27 filed an assignment document concerning United States Patent Application No.

28

1 12/023,753 in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Biosuccess denies
 2 the remaining allegations in paragraph 30.

3 31. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 31.

4 **COUNT II**

5 **(Negligent Mismanagement)**

6 32. Biosuccess incorporates by reference and realleges its responses to each
 7 and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

8 33. Biosuccess admits that Count II of Biosuccess' Counterclaims is titled
 9 "Breach of Contract – Failure to Fulfill Duties as the CTO/CSO;" Count IV is titled
 10 "Fraud;" Count V is titled "Negligent Misrepresentation;" and Count VII is titled
 11 "Breach of Fiduciary Duty." Biosuccess denies the remaining allegations in
 12 paragraph 33.

13 34. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 34.

14 35. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 35.

15 36. This paragraph contains Plaintiff's legal conclusions to which no
 16 response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Biosuccess
 17 denies the allegations contained in paragraph 36.

18 37. This paragraph contains Plaintiff's legal conclusions to which no
 19 response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Biosuccess
 20 denies the allegations contained in paragraph 37.

21 38. Biosuccess admits that venue is proper in this District. Biosuccess
 22 denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 38.

23 39. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 39.

24 40. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 40.

25 41. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 41.

26 42. Biosuccess admits that the Conditional Counterclaim refers to
 27 "Paragraph 3.1(b) of the October 2006 Agreement." Biosuccess denies the
 28

1 remaining allegations in paragraph 42.

2 43. Biosuccess denies the allegations contained in paragraph 43.

3 **PRAAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 Biosuccess denies that Chang is entitled to any of the relief requested in his
5 prayer for relief, or any relief whatsoever. Each and every remaining allegation in
6 Chang's prayer for relief is denied.

7 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

8 Without waiving any of the foregoing answers or defenses, Biosuccess asserts
9 the following affirmative defenses without prejudice to its position that it does not
10 have the burden of proof to establish these defenses to the extent that the burden on
11 the issue rests with Chang as a matter of law.

12 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13 **(Failure to State a Claim)**

14 44. Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

15 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 **(Breach of Contract)**

17 45. Plaintiff's claims should be denied because Plaintiff has breached the
18 express terms of the alleged "October 2006 Agreement." Plaintiff's breach
19 precludes any award of damages or equitable relief to Plaintiff.

20 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

21 **(Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing)**

22 46. Plaintiff's claims should be denied because Plaintiff breached the
23 implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing that runs with every written contract,
24 and this breach precludes an award of any damages or equitable relief to Plaintiff.

25 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

26 **(Prevention of Performance)**

27 47. Plaintiff breached the alleged "October 2006 Agreement" by failing to

1 timely, fully and adequately perform the terms and conditions therein, among other
2 things, thereby preventing Biosuccess' performance and discharging certain
3 obligations on the part of Biosuccess.

4 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 **(Failure to Fulfill Conditions Precedent)**

6 48. Any purported claim for breach of contract is barred to the extent
7 Plaintiff failed to fulfill any contractual conditions precedent.

8 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9 **(Negligence or Fault)**

10 49. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by Plaintiff's own
11 negligent conduct or because Plaintiff is at fault in bringing about any alleged loss
12 or harm he may have suffered.

13 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14 **(Waiver)**

15 50. Plaintiff is barred, in whole or in part, from seeking any relief under the
16 doctrine of waiver.

17 **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 **(Equitable Estoppel)**

19 51. Plaintiff's claims are barred by reason of acts, omissions,
20 representations and courses of conduct by Plaintiff on which Biosuccess was led to
21 rely to its detriment, thereby barring, under the doctrine of equitable estoppel, any
22 claims in the Complaint or Conditional Counterclaims.

23 **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 **(Laches)**

25 52. Plaintiff has unreasonably delayed in bringing this action against
26 Biosuccess. Such delay has resulted in prejudice to Biosuccess such that Plaintiff is
27 barred, in whole or in part, from seeking any relief.

1 **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

2 **(Failure to Mitigate Damages)**

3 53. The claims made in the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims are
4 barred, in whole or in part, because of a failure to mitigate damages, if such
5 damages exist.

6 **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

7 **(Unclean Hands)**

8 54. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of
9 unclean hands.

10 **TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11 **(Statute of Limitations)**

12 55. Plaintiff is barred, in whole or in part, from seeking any relief by the
13 operation of the applicable statutes of limitations.

14 **THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15 **(Frivolous Action)**

16 56. Plaintiff is barred, in whole or in part, from seeking any relief because
17 the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims are frivolous and were filed in bad
18 faith.

19 **FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 **(Lack of Irreparable Harm)**

21 57. Plaintiff's claims for injunctive relief are barred because Plaintiff
22 cannot show that it will suffer any irreparable harm from Biosuccess' actions.

23 **FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 **(Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction)**

25 58. Plaintiff's claims are barred for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

26 ///

27 ///

28 |||

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Adequacy of Remedy at Law)**

59. The alleged injury or damage suffered by Plaintiff, if any, would be adequately compensated by damages. Accordingly, Plaintiff has a complete and adequate remedy at law and is not entitled to seek equitable relief.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Acquiescence and Ratification)**

60. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, under the doctrine(s) of acquiescence and/or ratification.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Remote and Speculative Damages)**

61. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because the damages sought are excessively remote and speculative, and thus not cognizable, compensable or recoverable.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Consent)**

62. Plaintiff was fully aware of and consented to all of the alleged acts and/or conduct of Biosuccess.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Justification)**

63. Plaintiff's Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims are barred on the ground that every action taken with respect to the conduct complained of in the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims was justified.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**(Lack of Standing)**

64. Plaintiff lacks standing to bring all or a portion of the purported claims and causes of action alleged in the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Unjust Enrichment)

3 65. Plaintiff is barred from asserting any allegation in the Complaint and
4 Conditional Counterclaims because any recovery by Plaintiff will result in unjust
5 enrichment.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Conduct)

66. Plaintiff's own conduct prevents him from recovering on the purported claims or causes of action set forth in the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims.

TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Apportionment)

12 67. The matters complained of in the Complaint and Conditional
13 Counterclaims were proximately caused, in whole or in part, by the acts or
14 omissions of Plaintiff. Thus, the liability of Plaintiff should be apportioned
15 according to his respective degree of fault or other legal responsibility, and the
16 liability, if any, of Biosuccess should be reduced accordingly.

TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Parol Evidence)

19 68. The parol evidence rule bars oral statements prior to and at the time of
20 any final integrated written agreement.

TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Lack of Causation)

23 69. The purported claims and causes of action set forth in the Complaint
24 and Conditional Counterclaims are barred, in whole or in part, because of lack of
25 causation between Plaintiff's damages, if any, and the conduct of Biosuccess
26 complained of therein.

27 //

TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Accord and Satisfaction)

3 70. The claims set forth in the Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims
4 are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of accord and satisfaction.

TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Performance of Duties)

7 71. The Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims and each purported
8 cause of action alleged therein are barred because Biosuccess fully performed any
9 and all contractual and/or other duties it arguably owed to Plaintiff.

TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Failure to Join a Necessary and Indispensable Party)

12 72. Plaintiff's Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims should be
13 dismissed for failure to join a necessary and indispensable party.

THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Novation)

16 73. Plaintiff's Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims should be
17 dismissed because the October 2006 Agreement cannot be enforced because the
18 parties substituted a new and different contract.

THIRTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Modification or Amendment)

21 74. Plaintiff's Complaint and Conditional Counterclaims should be
22 dismissed because the October 2006 Agreement was modified and/or amended.

THIRTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Additional Affirmative Defenses)

25 75. Biosuccess hereby reserves its right to amend this Answer and/or allege
26 additional affirmative defenses in the event that any such additional affirmative
27 defenses become available to Biosuccess.

1
2 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**
3

4 Defendant and counter-claimant Biosuccess hereby demands a jury trial on all
5 issues so triable.
6

Dated: October 15, 2013

LEE TRAN LIANG & WANG LLP

7
8 
9

10 By: _____
11 Enoch H. Liang
12 Attorneys for Defendant
13 BIOSUCCESS BIOTECH, CO., LTD.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28